

KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN SWEDEN AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 9 482 855)

By the end of 2011, Sweden had reported a cumulative total of 9 888 HIV cases, including 2 168 AIDS cases and 1 323 deaths among AIDS cases to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). However, AIDS reporting has not been mandatory in Sweden since 2005 and since 2007 the country has not reported any AIDS cases or deaths among AIDS cases. For 2011, 370 HIV cases were reported with a rate of 3.9 per 100 000 population. Of the newly reported infections with information about transmission mode in 2011 (58%), 45.8% were infected through heterosexual contact, 40.7% through sex between men, 5.6% through injecting drug use and 6% through mother-to-child transmission. Of newly reported cases with known sex, 63% were male. In total, 182 mother-to-child transmission cases have been reported in Sweden, including 13 in 2011.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 9 100 (7 100 – 13 000) people were living with HIV in Sweden in 2011 and that less than 100 people died from AIDS-related causes during 2011.

HIV testing is free of charge in Sweden under the terms of the Swedish Communicable Disease Prevention Act (SFS 2004:168). Anonymous HIV testing, if requested, is sanctioned by law. Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) for HIV is available throughout Sweden, and is mainly offered in the primary health care centres in the municipalities, and in STI clinics, infectious disease clinics and gynaecological clinics in public hospitals. Further, contact tracing/partner notification is mandatory for all clinicians who diagnose HIV.

About 60% of all HIV patients diagnosed in 2011 were late presenters, meaning that they were diagnosed at a time when treatment is already recommended (CD4 <350 at time of diagnosis). Increasing testing in key populations and consequently being able to improve earlier diagnosis remains a challenge.

The number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) increased from 2 500 in 2005 to 5 016 by December 2011 (2 556 men and 2 359 women, aged 15 years and older, and 101 children aged 14 years and younger). They constitute approximately 80% of all people living with a known HIV infection in Sweden.

Sources:

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